

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] Extrusion apparatus 10 includes a main die body 20, a bearing plate 30, a rotary die body 40, ~~a die head~~ an extrusion die 50, and a protective cup guard 51.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended paragraph:

[0026] FIG. 3 is a perspective view of an example bearing plate 30. ~~As illustrated, bearing plate 30 includes a further mounting screws 31 that is axially aligned with the mounting screws 22 in main die body 20 (as best viewed in FIG. 1). A plurality of mounting holes 33 may be provided at suitable locations to secure the bearing plate 30 onto the main die body 20, be axially aligned with corresponding mounting holes formed in the main die body 20.~~ Example bearing plate 30 has an orifice 24d which forms a section of secondary supply channel 24.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] Extrusion die 50 may be provided with a mounting hole 53 (FIG. 5) to mount extrusion die 50 onto rotary die body 40 with a fastener, such as a screw (not shown). Extrusion die 50 includes a further extrusion passage 52.

Please replace paragraph [0030] with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] The central axes of extrusion passage 42 (FIG. 1); extrusion passage 22 in main die body 20; extrusion passage 32 in the bearing plate 30; and extrusion passage 52 in extrusion die 50, are axially aligned and combine to form an extrusion channel 28. Extrusion channel 28 provides a passage through extrusion apparatus 10 for the first foam material, which is extruded at die egress 54 and forms the main body of an extruded foam article. In an embodiment, each extrusion passage 22, 32, 42, 52 may have generally inwardly tapering walls leading towards the die egress 54.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] Extrusion die 50 is more particularly illustrated in FIG. 5. As shown, extrusion die 50 is generally disc shaped, and exemplified extrusion passage 52 is generally funnel-shaped: the wall of the extrusion passage 52 tapers as the passage 52 extends from the ingress of the passage to egress 54 of extrusion die 50. As will become apparent, extrusion passage 52 of extrusion die 50 acts as an applicator, to apply a coating to the outer surface of the extruded article 12 (FIG. 6) as it is being extruded.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0042]** As a result, the region of application of each feed channel 46 rotates about the central axis of passages 52, and extrusion channel 28. This relative rotation causes the coating material to come into contact with the surface of the first foam material within extrusion channel 28, at varying angular locations about the axis of extrusion channel 28, proximate the region of application as the first foam material moves along the axis of the extrusion channel 28. As applied, the coating from each feed channel 46 covers less than the entire outer perimeter of the main body 14 in passage 52. As a result, the coating material takes the form of helical bands 18, occupying a region representing a fraction of a perimeter of the outer surface 16 of the extruded article 12, as illustrated in FIG 7A. Each feed channel 46 forms a single helical band 18 on the extruded article ~~[[14]]~~12. The number of bands 18 and the appearance of the extruded article 12 may thus be varied by varying the number and spacing of the feed channels 46 and the speed of rotation of the rotary die body 40.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0043]** It will be appreciated that, in an embodiment, if the rotary die body 40 is not rotating, then straight bands will be formed on the extruded article ~~[[14]]~~12.

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0044]** The combination of the first foam material and coating material exits extrusion apparatus 10 at egress 54 of extrusion die 50. As this combination exits, it expands uniformly due to the active foaming agent mixed in the first foam material. The degree of expansion may be controlled by, for example, selection of the foaming agent, control of the amount of foaming agent used, the temperature of the combination, and the relative drop in pressure once the combination exits egress 54. Protective cup guard 51 prevents the extruded, expanding article 12 from accidentally contacting rollers 56. Conveniently, the coating material may be formed from material that has suitable expansion characteristics, so that the coating material expands at the same rate as the first foam material. This retains the helical band appearance on the outer surface 16 of the main foam body 14 as it expands substantially. Moreover, the coating material remains on or near the surface of the main foam body 14. Typically, the first foam material may expand in volume by a factor of 10 to 50 with the coating material expanding correspondingly on the surface of the first foam material. As the combination cools, it hardens in its extruded form. Conveniently, if the coating material is of the same material as the first foam material, the texture of the outer surface 16 of the ~~formed~~ extruded article ~~[[14]]~~12 is generally uniform. As well, as the coating material is only applied to the outer surface 16, the quantity of coating material required is only a small fraction of the quantity of first foam material used to form the ~~article~~ main foam body 14.